(b) if so, the details of States in which production units of Rail Neer are proposed to be established;

(c) whether Government received any request from Members of Parliament for considering Kerala for setting up of factory in South India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the stand of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the first phase, Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has set up two rail neer Plants one at Nangloi (Delhi) and the other at Danapur (Bihar). These two plants are now producing Rail neer meeting the requirement of rail passengers of Northern and Eastern States of the country. Location of future plants in other regions will be considered by IRCTC depending upon the feasibility and requirement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Introducing technology and communication

1725. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to reduce railway accidents Government was investing in providing latest technology and communication system;

(b) if so, whether recently a two-day seminar on "Signalling and Telecommunications System" on Indian Railways was held;

(c) if so, to what extent new technology is being introduced in Railways; and

(d) if so, to what extent new technology introduced in Railways have helped for checking railway accidents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A two days national seminar on "Signalling & Telecommunication

Systems on Indian Railways—a vision for the Future" was held on 23rd and 24th July, 2004 by the Institution of Railway Signal & Telecommunication Engineers (India).

(c) and (d) Modern Signalling and Telecommunication Systems such as Panel Interlocking/Route Relay Interlocking/Electronic Interlocking, Track Circuiting of station yards, Automatic Block Signalling, Block Proving through Axle Counter, Digital Axle Counters, Integrated Power Supply Systems, Data Loggers, Interlocking of level crossings, Train Management System, and Optical Fiber Cable Network, communication aids during emergencies and Mobile Train Radio Communication have been provided and are further being added on Indian Railways. Induction of such systems has improved safety and enhanced line capacity & operational flexibility.

Initiatives have also been taken to induct other important Modern Signalling and Telecommunication Systems such as Train Protection and Warning System & Anti Collision Devices at stations and Train Actuated Warning Systems at level crossings.

Provision of Modern Signalling & Telecommunication Systems improve safety considerably by:-

(i) Preventing human errors in operations and maintenance.

(ii) Preventing reception of a train on an occupied line.

(iii) Preventing conflicting train movements.

(iv) Preventing mid-section and station section collisions.

(v) Reducing the chances of collisions at Level Crossings by giving audio-visual warning to road users about an approaching train.

(vi) Providing instant communication amongst personnel engaged in various facets of operation and maintenance.

New Rail Lines in Andhra Pradesh

1726. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of surveys made for new rail lines in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;